

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 EA-11 RSR-01 /071 W

----- 007927

O R 071130 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

MEMBASSY NAIROBI 2161

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8749

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0665

USIAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: ABC TV TEAM

STATE FOR AF/E

1. ABC- TV TEAM ARRIVED LUSAKA APRIL 1 FROM ZAIRE. POST PROVIDED ASSISTANCE IN SEKRING APPROVAL FOR SHOOTING SCHEDULE INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW APRIL 3, TRIP TO COPPERBELT APRIL 4, AND TRIP TO LIVINGSTONE BORDER POINT APRIL 5 AND 6. GRZ PERMISSION TO FILM CONSTRUCTION SITES TAZARA RAILROAD TENTATIVEL. ORIGINALLY PROMISED BUT ULTIMATELY NOT GRANTED.

2. LATE AFTERNOON APRIL3, PAO SUDDENLY AND INFORMALLY REQUESTED BY MINISTRY INFORMATION OFFICIAL TO ASSIST GRZ IN INSURING TEAM DEPARTED ZAMBIA BY SATURDAY APRIL 7, DUE, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL, TOTTEAM' S ATTEMPT QUOTE BLACKMAIL UNQUOTE GRZ INTO APPROVAL OF FILMING RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION SITES. ACCORDING OFFICIAL, TEAM TOLD PERMSEC MINISTRY INFORMATION THAT IF PERMISSION NOT GRANTED FILM RAILROAD THEN PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW NOT TO BE SHOWN ON US TV. FYI: WE KNOW OF NO PRIOR FILMING ON ZAMBIAN PORTION RAILWAY; HOWEVER, LEARNED THAT GRZ HAS JUST COMPLETED FILM ON WESTERN TANZANIAN AND NORTHERN ZAMBIAN CONSTRUCTION ALONG RIGHT OF WAY FOR PRC USE. ALTHOUGH WE NOT CERTAIN, IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT PRC REPRESENTATIVES TO

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TAZARA MUST BE CONSULTED AS WELL AS JOINT TANZANIAN- ZAMBIAN RAIL AUTHORITIES IN ORDER SECURE APPROVAL FOR ANY PUBLICITY ON RAILROAD. IT WOULD SEEM THAT PRC WISHES HAVE FIRST FILMS OF CONSTRUCTION FOR OWN USE. END FYI:

3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH TEAM, THEY INSIST THAT KAUNDA INTIMATED APPROVAL FOR RAILWAY FILMING DURING INTERVIEW AND THEY ATTEMPTED USE THAT LEVERAGE AS WELL AS QUOTE NO- STORY- WITHOUT- RAIL- CONSTRUCTION UNQUOTE ARGUMENT WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS. LATTER REACTED PREDICTABLY.

4. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT KAUNDA EARLIER IN WEEK QUESTIONED WHETHER ABC US GOVERNMENT AFFILIATED AND REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IF SO HE WOULD REFUSE TO GIVE INTERVIEW SINCE USG HAS NOT COME FORWARD IN RESPONSE TO ZAMBIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN SITUATION CAUSED BY BORDER CLOSURE.

5. TEAM DEPARTING AS DESIRED BY GRZ APRIL 7 FOR DAR. THEY NOT AWARE THAT GRZ MADE INITIATIVE TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING THEIR DEPARTURE. TEAM NOW RELATIVELY SATISFIED RESULTS THEIR VISIT AND ACCORDING PRODUCER RICHTER, ZAMBIA SEQUENCE PROBABLE, INCLUDING INTERVIEW AND OTHER FOOTAGE OBTAINED. MINISTRY OFFICIALS APPEAR RELIEVED THAT SITUATION SO EASILY RESOLVED. EMBASSY FORTUNATELY ABLE AVOID ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN PLAYING CATALYTIC ROLE IN SITUATION AND BOTH PARTIES APPEAR REASONABLY MOLLIFIED.

6. WE WISH STRESS THAT TEAM PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE AND, WE BELIEVE, NOW MORE UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN SENSITIVITIES.
GDS.
LEWIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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